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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/695,016	10/23/2000	Peter E. Blackshaw	PLNTP003	3308

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EXAMINER

COLON, CATHERINE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/695,016

Applicant(s)

BLACKSHAW ET AL.

Examiner

C. Michelle Colon

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-58 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is an Election/Restriction Requirement in response to the communication received on October 27, 2004. A new examiner is responsible for the instant application and is imposing an Election/Restriction Requirement so that examination is directed to a single invention.

Claims 1, 15, 16, 21-23, 25, 29, 43, 45, 47-50 and 54-58 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-58 are now pending in this application.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 15, 16, 21-23, 25, 29, 43, 45, 47-50 and 54-58 are acknowledged. The amendments are sufficient to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 101 technological arts rejection set forth in the previous Office Action. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 101 technological arts rejection is withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
- I. Claims 1, 3-15, 28-42, 54, 57 and 58, drawn to collecting consumer feedback on a business and creating consumer indices based on demographic and socio-economic data of the consumer, classified in class 705, subclass 10.
 - II. Claims 16-27, and 55, drawn to collecting consumer feedback on a business and conducting detailed analyses based on various ratings

received from consumers to create consumer indices, classified in class 705, subclass 10.

- III. Claims 43-53 and 56, drawn to collecting consumer feedback on a business and creating an index based on the number of consumer feedback communications generated, classified in class 705, subclass 10.

4. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as in a marketing survey system that creates indices to categorize consumers based on ratings obtained from the consumers who have rated a business. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Invention II as applied in the previous example, does not require demographic and socio-economic data of the consumer to create consumer indices as recited in invention I to be a useful and effective marketing survey system. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as in a market research system used to determine the most opinionated

consumers by creating an index based on the number of consumer feedback communications generated.

Invention III as applied in the previous example, does not require demographic and socio-economic data of the consumer to create consumer indices as recited in invention I to be a useful and effective market research system. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as in a market research system used to determine the most opinionated consumers by creating an index based on the number of consumer feedback communications generated.

Invention III as applied in the previous example, does not require conducting detailed analyses based on various ratings received from consumers to create consumer indices as recited in invention II to be a useful and effective market research system. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the searches required for Groups I, II and III are different, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Michelle Colon whose telephone number is 703-605-4251. The examiner can normally be reached Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz, can be reached at 703-305-9643.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:


703-872-9306 [Official Communications; including After Final
communications labeled "Box AF"]

703-746-7202 [For status inquiries, draft communication, labeled
"Proposed" or "Draft"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 7th floor receptionist.


cmc

January 21, 2005


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL FIELD